A HAC meeting was held on September 9 for only one purpose: to distribute copies of the Honors Program APR Self-Study Report for collegiate members to peruse prior to the Sept. 23 meeting. Thus, no minutes were taken at this meeting.

Present: Mary Ailes, Jane Christensen, Gary Davis, Aaron Dimock, Beverly Frickel, Victoria Goro-Rapaport, Jan Moore, Paul Twigg, Ron Tuttle
Absent: Deborah Bridges, Dusty Newton, Dennis Potthoff

Samantha Post, Vice President of the Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB), reported that on Friday, September 21, 16 applicants for the open seats on HSAB were interviewed with the plan to choose 3. The applicants were so good, HSAB instead extended 6 invitations, thus the Board now sits 18 Honors students at all class ranks.

Letters to parents of Honors students went out on Sept. 22, inviting parents to purchase a “Mid-Term Kit” for their Honors student(s). The Mid-Term Kits are a fund-raising effort begun in 2004, and provide Honors students with a package of goodies, such as candy, cocoa mix, granola bars, etc., to gear-up for Mid-Terms. Parents can also send special messages of encouragement to be placed in the Mid-Term Kit.

In October HSAB will sponsor a Pumpkin Carving event—not a contest, just for fun. Hopefully Honors students will gather around a variety of sizes of pumpkins and get creative.

In November HSAB will host a Husker Game Party—date to be determined.

Over 90 Honors 2009 t-shirts were ordered and will arrive soon.

The Honors Program Academic Program Review will take place on Thursday Oct. 1 and Friday Oct. 2, 2009. The Honors Council agreed that the 10:30 a.m.-11:00a.m. meeting time with the Review Time was acceptable, and all collegiate representatives can attend. Some members of the HAC volunteered their prior experiences sitting on panels for APR Teams. All agreed it should be a positive experience.

Christensen added that the Governance Document for the HAC is the first appendix in the APR Self-Study, so the Review Team will know the basic mission and function of the HAC prior to the meeting.

Davis provided Honors student enrollment data. From the reported 511 students in the Honors Program from the recent Registrar’s list, the actual files in the Honors database were checked and cleaned-out. From this the following numbers were determined: As of fall 2009, 145 freshmen; 138 sophomores; 108 juniors; and 116 seniors, for a total of 507. This is the first time the entire Honors student population has exceeded 500.

Honors advising will soon begin, on Oct. 5, 2009. Davis will send a reminder e-mail to all Chairs to remind faculty in their respective departments to prepare for Honors students’ requests for academic advising appointments. Deans will also receive such an e-mail. Honors students will register on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, from 7:00 a.m. to midnight.

Honors general studies course descriptions for Spring 2010 were sent to all HAC members.

Christensen drafted and sent an e-mail to all Chairs to remind them to send forward, with their regular General Studies course offerings, the “H” versions of those courses which have been regularly offered as Honors sections as well. The Honors administrators foresee no real issues with offering much the same sorts of general studies classes in the new General Studies Program—under the headings of
Foundational Courses, and Distribution Courses. Portal Courses will be a different issue. Davis and Christensen plan to create a selection process whereby Portal Course proposals will be considered and chosen as potential Honors Portals for incoming Honors freshmen. Dr. Daren Snider has been consulted as to suggestions for such a selection process. Some proposals have already been received.

HAC will meet only one time in October because of the APR. That date will be Oct. 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane E. Christensen, Associate Director, UNK Honors Program
JoLene Williams, Recording Secretary

Honors Advisory Council (HAC) Meeting
October 21, 2009
Sisler Room, MSAB

Present: Mary Ailes, Jane Christensen, Gary Davis, Aaron Dimock, Beverly Frickel, Dennis Potthoff, Paul Twigg
Absent: Deborah Bridges, Victoria Goro-Rapaport, Jan Moore, Dusty Newton, Ron Tuttle

Minutes for the September 23, 2009 meeting were approved.

Davis went over the eight primary points of the recent APR Executive Summary which was received last Friday, October 16, 2009, from Dr. Robert Spurrier, the External Reviewer.

These eight points are: 1) UNK Honors Program budget; 2) Honors conferences; 3) status of the Director/Associate Director/Secretary positions—from half-time to full-time; 4) permanent endowments to provide stability for Honors scholarships; 5) consideration of raising the amount of Honors credit hours required to complete the UNK Honors Program, from 24 to 27-30 hours (which could include experiential learning projects, community service, and/or study abroad); 6) the renovation of Men’s Hall for next Fall—becomes the new Honors Hall, as Stout Hall is slated for demolition within 2 years; 7) 2 student members on HAC rather than one, and both as voting members—Honors Student Advisory Board: election, by Honors student body, of one student from each class rank for more democratic representation; and 8) creation of an Honors Alumni Advisory Council to facilitate donations, track Honors Program graduates, and assist recruitment.

Overall, the UNK Honors Program APR was a tremendous success, with an overwhelmingly positive response from the External Reviewer and the APR team. The Honors administrators will present copies of the Executive Summary to the SVCAA/SL and the Faculty Liaison. After their feedback is obtained, the Honors administrators will form an Action Plan based on the recommendations of the Team and the recommendations of the SVCAA/SL.

Response from members of HAC was varied: how will the new GS program affect Honors? Will this affect H-Options? How will the new PeopleSoft student information system affect advising? --Most of these questions are not answerable at this time, but the Self-Study report written by the Honors directors clearly indicates a willingness to adapt to any changes necessary to keep the UNK Honors Program of the highest quality for its students.